

Accordingly, the amendment we are offering would authorize the Secretary of Defense to accept foreign gifts and donations for the Institute, and would require the Secretary of Defense's annual report to Congress on the Institute to include the annual report of the Board of Visitors along with the Secretary's comments on the Board's report. I ask my colleagues for their support for this amendment.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, it has been cleared on this side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3951) was agreed to.

Mr. LEVIN. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. WARNER. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. LEVIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### WEST VIRGINIA DAY, 2002

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President and fellow Senators, have you noticed how everyone seems a little happier today? Their smiles are brighter, their greetings are a little more gracious and their thank yous are more sincere. Have you noticed how the sun seems to be shining brighter today and food tastes better today? The air seems sweeter today.

The Senator from Pennsylvania does not know what a great day this is.

That is, no doubt, because today is June 20, and that means it is West Virginia Day. All over the country, it is June 20th. All over the world, it is June 20th. That means all over the country, and all over the world, it is West Virginia Day.

It was 139 years ago today that West Virginia, by an act of Congress and the signature of President Abraham Lincoln, became the thirty-fifth state of our Union.

The birth of the State of West Virginia was not an easy delivery. It involved great labor pains, and blood, sweat, and tears. West Virginia was born in the middle of our country's bitter, divisive, and bloody Civil War, and there were serious constitutional questions involved in her delivery.

But goodness and righteousness prevailed and West Virginia, predicated upon its allegiance to the Constitution and the republic, became a State, and here I am. Had that not happened, I would not have been here. This Union may not have survived.

It all began on that great and glorious day of June 20th, 1863—and what a great and glorious day it was. It was a day a local newspaper, the *Wheeling Intelligencer*, called a "great gala day." The newspaper reported that "thousands of people from abroad" joined with the new state officials and the "entire population" of Wheeling, the city where the official ceremony took place, to celebrate the occasion.

Business was suspended. Workers were given the day off.

Flags were everywhere—everywhere, on all the street corners, along all the streets. Flags of all sizes were flown from every housetop and every business in the city. It was reported that flags were as "thick as the locusts that were then occupying the suburbs and surrounding countryside."

The ceremonies included brigade bands playing patriotic songs, and units of the West Virginia militia parading through the town. There were countless toasts and even more cheers for the United States and for its new state, the State of West Virginia.

And, of course, there were political speeches.

The man considered the "father of West Virginia," Francis H. Pierpont, declared:

May we [meaning West Virginia]—may we from this small beginning today, grow to be the proudest state in all the glorious galaxy of States that form the Nation.

Waitman T. Willey, one of the State's first two U.S. Senators, proclaimed:

What we have longed for and labored for and prayed for is [now] a fixed fact. West Virginia is a fixed fact.

West Virginia is a fixed fact.

The first Governor of the State, Arthur Boreman, a 39-year-old man with a full-flowing black beard, promised to do everything in his power "to advance the agricultural, mining, and manufacturing, and commercial interests of the State."

After the speeches, 35 little girls representing the 35 states of the Union, sang more patriotic songs and the band played the "Star Spangled Banner."

The day closed with a "brilliant display of fireworks" over the Ohio River.

The next day, the *New York Post* reported:

[B]orn amid the turmoil of the Civil War and cradled by the storm . . . the 35th State is now added to the American union.

The *New York Times* echoed the words of Senator Willey with the headline that read "West Virginia is now a fixed fact."

The State of West Virginia was a "fixed fact," but its future was not. The State's childhood and adolescence were to be as difficult and tumultuous as its birth.

The State of West Virginia soon became an economic colony of northeastern, absentee landlords, the infamous Robber Barons of the late nineteenth century, who ruthlessly exploited the State for its rich natural resources.

Other problems came piling on. From the Monongah mine disaster of 1907, when I believe 361 miners lost their lives, the worst coal-mine disaster in American history, to the Marshall University plane crash of 1970, the worst sports tragedy in American history, the people of West Virginia came to know and suffer many and various forms of tragedy, including the Silver Bridge collapse at Point Pleasant, the Buffalo Creek Slag Dam collapse in Logan County, as well as a multitude of deadly mine explosions and disastrous floods.

And for too long, the State suffered from economic backwardness.

Through it all, the courageous, patriotic, and dedicated people of West Virginia have remained loyal to their country and their government.

They have continued to supply the nation with the energy it needs to heat our homes, to light these Chambers, fuel our battleships, and power our massive industries.

And the people of West Virginia have served our country in times of war as well as peace. West Virginians have fought and died in our nation's wars, including World War II, Korea and Vietnam, far beyond proportion to West Virginia's population size.

Meanwhile, the people of West Virginia have struggled to overcome exploitation and oppression by joining unions and electing political leaders who would better represent them. It took decades and it took tremendous effort, but, as I have said, the spirit of West Virginia is to "endure and to prevail." The people of West Virginia endured and they have prevailed.

One of my favorite Roman philosophers, Seneca, said, "Fire is the test of gold; adversity, of strong men."

Today, many strong men and women have brought West Virginia to the brink of vast social and economic change. The State is cultivating new economic growth and prosperity as a result of a bumper crop of better roads, new technology, and forward-looking leadership. Traditional industries are being augmented by fresh business activity, flexible manufacturing, leading-edge and information-age high technology.

People across America are discovering West Virginia. They are coming to West Virginia to camp, hike, fish, raft our white waters, and ski our slopes.

They are discovering the natural wonders of my State—that West Virginia is truly one of the most beautiful states in the union. With its rushing, trout-filled mountain streams, its majestic rolling green hills, picturesque villages and towns, magnificent forests, scenic State parks, no wonder the